

App. No. 10/506,363
Office Action Dated March 22, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 8 are hereby amended.

Amendment of claim 1 is supported, for example, by Figure 1. Amendment of claim 8 is supported, for example, by Figure 1.

Claim 8 was objected to for unclear language. Claim 8 is amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of claim 8 is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 9-11 were rejected as being anticipated by Atsuumi (US 6,198,563). Applicants traverse this rejection. Atsuumi does not disclose or suggest an optical scanner having a configuration in which a light beam is reflected from a first reflecting optical element only one time, as required by claim 1. Rather, Atsuumi teaches a cylindrical mirror (60', rejection equates to the claimed first reflecting optical element) positioned such that a light beam is reflected therefrom twice. See Figure 20.

The Examiner contends Atsuumi discloses a first reflecting optical element that is disposed in a space interposed between a light beam reflected from the optical deflector to be incident on the second reflecting optical element and a light beam reflected last from the second reflecting optical element, as required by claim 7. Applicants disagree with this view. In fact, Atsuumi teaches a dustproof transparent window (100, rejection equates to the claimed first reflecting optical element) that is provided outside of a space defined between a light beam reflected from a deflector (4) to be incident on image-forming mirror (70, rejection equates to the claimed second reflecting optical element) and a light beam reflected last from the image-forming mirror (70). See Figure 17.

The Examiner contends Atsuumi discloses a first reflecting optical element that has a shape that permits compensation for a curve of a scanning line that occurs due to oblique light incidence, as required by claim 9. Applicants disagree with this view. Atsuumi is directed to

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compensation for a curvature of field in a sub-scanning direction, rather than a curve of a scanning line (bow).

The Examiner contends Atsuumi discloses a curved surface mirror that has a skew shape in which a normal line at each of point other than the vertex on a generatrix that is a curved line where a surface of the curved surface mirror intersects with the YZ plane is not included in the YZ plane, as required by claim 10. Applicants disagree with this view. Atsuumi teaches a curved surface mirror that has a toroidal configuration. See Figures 12 and 18.

Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-4, 7, and 9-11 is requested.

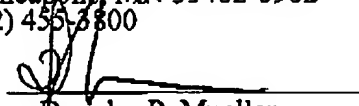
Claim 8 was rejected as being unpatentable over Atsuumi. Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 8 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which it depends. Favorable reconsideration of claim 8 is requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

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Dated: June 21, 2006

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DPM/mfe